(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Utilisation of retired services personnel in Police Forces

3058. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of service personnel who constitute a rich source of trained and disciplined manpower, retired/released from active service every year;

(b) whether Government propsoe to absorb some of them in Central Police Organisations and State Armed Police Forces and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The average number of personnel retiring/released from service every year is as under:—

Army	-	51,537
Air Force	-	5516
Navy	-	3193

(b) and (c) In the Recruitment Rules of the Central Para Military Forces, provision has been made to reserve posts for ex-servicemen at the level of Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables. Few State Governments have also reserved certain percentage of posts in State Police Force for ex-servicemen.

Seizure of Assam bound weapons by Myanmarese Army

3059. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that on the Indo-Myanmar border the Myanmar armies seizes Assam-bound weapons:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan between the Government of India and Myanmarese Government to solve the Indo-Myanmar border problems; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are no reports to suggest this.

(c) and (d) Various institutional mechanisms have been set up whereby regular dialogue between the two sides is maintained on border issues and security-related matters.

War Like Situation on Northern Border

3060. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the reported Statement of the General Officer commanding Northern Sector in end of October, 2001 to the effect that the situation on our Northern Borders is not different from 1965 when India had to fight a war against Pakistan;

(b) if so, what was the precise situation leading the GoI to make such a statement;

(c) whether the Union Minister of State for External Affairs stated on 31st October, 2001 that Kashmir issue is not political but a military issue, if so, in what precise context; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Army Commander, Northern Command had made certain observations during the course of a key-note address delivered by him at the University of Jammu recently about Pakistan continuing a covert war and its support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and the resolve of the nation to tackle the threat effectively. Government have seen certain media reports on the subject where a few of such observations have been exaggerated.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government's position on the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been consistent and principled. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is